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BRIEFER ARTICLES

THOMAS HOWELL

(WITH PORTRAIT)

Mr. THOMAS HOWELL, the pioneer botanist of Oregon, died on December 3, 1912, in Portland, at the age of 70 years. He was born near Pisgah, Missouri, October 9, 1842, whence he moved to Oregon in 1850, before railroads had entered the state. Although he received a meager school education, he was a well learned man and an enthusiastic botanist. He did not marry until his 54th year. His wife and a son of seven survive him.

Just before his death he completed the second edition of his *Flora of Northwestern America*, replacing the BENTHAM and HOOKER system with that of ENGLER and PRANTL. This publication embodies the life work of Mr. HOWELL, who spent more than 30 years tramping and traveling over the states of Washington and Oregon. Considering the vast area of these states, and the vicissitudes of pioneer life in that far isolated country, the task of accumulating the data for such a complete flora of the region is realized. Naming the localities worked in these states would require much space; suffice it to say, that the only places he did not visit were portions of central northern Washington and of the central part of Oregon. It is not known to the writer how much material he collected; the Field Museum alone has 2263 specimens. His flora lists and describes about 3290 species. It was the good fortune of Mr. HOWELL to discover and describe the last of the Pacific coast conifers, *Picea Breweriana*, the weeping spruce, a very local tree near the Oregon-California line, which he first found at Waldo, in the Siskiyou Mountains, at an elevation of 6000 feet.

Mr. HOWELL was materially unfortunate in having lived in a region where his knowledge of systematic botany yielded him no financial remuneration, save from the limited sale of his book. His love of study and enjoyment of the vastness of the Pacific Northwest he considered ample reward. The sad part of his later life was his limited finances. For the last several years he was compelled to live in a poor foreign section of Portland, eking out a frugal existence in a small grocery-confectionery store, which also served as his residence. When visited last by the writer, he was making coarse teamsters mittens on a sewing



machine for seven cents a pair. Under such conditions was his book revised. Mr. HOWELL, however, was very cheerful at all times and betrayed no impatience with depressing external conditions.

According to his own statement, the picture here produced is the only one ever taken of him. It represents him seated at his typewriter with the first copy of his revised flora. Behind him are seen stacks of completed mittens. It was made by the writer during a visit, October 14, 1910.—HURON H. SMITH, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.*

THE SEEDLING OF PHYLLOCARPUS (WITH ONE FIGURE)

When recently collecting insects at Gualan, Guatemala, Mrs. COCKERELL was so fortunate as to discover a new species of *Phyllocarpus*,



FIG. 1.—Seedling of *Phyllocarpus*, n. sp.; from Gualan, Guatemala, by W. P. COCKERELL; apical leaflet not expanded.

a genus previously known from a single species found in Brazil. It is a large tree, with magnificent red flowers, much visited by insects. The circumstances attending the discovery have been related at some length in the *Canadian Entomologist* (September 1912, pp. 278, 279). Seeds

were later obtained by Mr. E. MORRIS, and we were successful in getting some of them to germinate. I described the seedling in an early stage, before the fleshy cotyledons had appeared, and was away from home during the development of the later stages. From the accompanying figures it will be seen that the seedling is essentially like that of *Caesalpinia*. At the stage represented by the figures, the following characters are apparent:

Epicotylar stalk strongly pubescent, with spreading fine hairs as long as half its diameter, and more abundant short curled ones; petioles the same, only more hairy; first leaves 7-foliolate; leaflets light pea green, rather broad lanceolate, quite entire, nearly sessile, but inequilateral at base; perfectly glabrous except the margins, which are densely white-hairy, and the midribs beneath, which are hairy like the petioles.—T. D. A. COCKERELL, *University of Colorado, Boulder.*